

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 SSC-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 PC-04 COME-00

AGR-20 HEW-08 DRC-01 SAB-01 /131 W

----- 023397

R 300535Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7936

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NP

SUBJECT: RECONSTITUTION NEPALESE CABINET

REF: KATHMANDU 1265

1. PALACE COMMUNIQUE HAS ANNOUNCED ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RECONSTITUTED CABINET. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SHUFFLING OF PORTFOLIOS, AND HOME HAS BEEN SPLIT FROM PANCHAYAT WITH WHICH IT WAS MERGED EIGHT YEARS AGO.

2. RIJAL REMAINS PRIME MINISTER AND RETAINS PALACE AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, KARKI RETAINS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE,. SUWAL RETAINS WORKS AND TRANSPORT AND ASSUMES COMMUNICATIONS RELINQUISHED BY SINGH EARLY THIS MONTH. HOM BAHADUR SHRESTHA RETAINS HOME, RELINQUISHING PANCHAYAT, AND ASSUMES LAW AND JUSTICE FROM KHADAYAT. KHADAYAT TAKES FOOD AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM PORTFOLIOS RELINQUISHED BY GHIMIRE ON HIS RESIGNATION MARCH 12. ARYAL RETAINS EDUCATION AND TAKES HEALTH, PREVIOUSLY NOT A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PORTFOLIO. NEW ENTRANT DAMODAR SHUMSHERE RANA TAK PANCHAYAT PORTFOLIO.

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3. AT MINISTER OF STATE LEVEL, BHATTA RETAINS WATER AND POWER AND ADDS FORESTS. BHUBAN MAN SINGH RETAINS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. NEW COMER RADHA PRASAD GHIMIRE TAKES COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND BHEKH BAHADUR TAHPA, AS ANTICIPATED, FINANCE.

4. ASSISTANT MINISTER DAYA BIKRAM SHAH RELINQUISHES FINANCE AND ASSUMES LAND REFORM. AITWAL RETAINS FORESTS WHILE PRAKASH CHAND MUKHIA DROPS WORKS AND TRANSPORT FOR EDUCATION. MRS. SUSHILA HAS HEALTH PORTFOLIO, BALARAM GHARTI MAGAR HOME, HARI NARAYAN RAJURIA FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, DHYAN BAHADUR RAI, WATER AND POWER, BHIM PRASAD GAUCHAN PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT, BHOLA NATH JHA INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND BIRENDRA BAHADUR SINGH PANCHAYAT.

5. COMMENT: MOST SIGNIFICANT APPOINTMENT APPEARS BE THAT OF BHEKH THAPA, QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED ECONOMIST WHO SHOULD TAKE MUCH OF THE FINANCE LOAD OFF KARKI. HIS EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE DETERMINED BY RELATIONSHIP HE DEVELOPS WITH KARKI AND, PARTICULARLY, WITH PALACE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT EFFECT SPLIT OF HOME AND PANCHAYAT WILL PRODUCE OR WHAT REAL FUNCTIONS DAMODAR RANA WILL ASSUME. EXCEPT FOR MRS. SUSHILA THAPA, WHO IS LONG-TIME PANCHAYAT POLITICIAN WELL-KNOWN TO EMBASSY AND IVP GRANTEE RAJURIA (FOOD AND AGRICULTURE), NEW ASSISTANT MINISTERS ARE UNKNOWN AND FOR MOST PART RELATIVELY NEW TO NATIONAL PANCYAYAT.

CARGO

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## Message Attributes

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